



# Mallows Bay

A place of history, fun, and adventure

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Since its establishment in 1658, Charles County is continually creating its mark on our nation's history through notable figures, landmarks, and monumental past events. One of these landmarks is Mallows Bay, home to the "Ghost Fleet," the largest ship graveyard in the Western Hemisphere.

Mallows Bay shipwrecks, which represent American conflicts dating back to the Revolutionary War through World War I, have become a sanctuary for a wide variety of wildlife species. Mallows Bay Park features wildlife and shipwreck viewing areas with a permanent telescope, fishing, boating, kayak access, and a hiking trail.

Visitors can enjoy the scenic view of the bay's waterscape dotted with tiny islands and scattered remains representing centuries of American history. Across the bottom of Mallows Bay and the Potomac River are the remains of more than 100

wooden steam ships built between 1917 and 1919 for the World War I United States Emergency Fleet.

Paddlers are advised to use caution when exploring due to the diverse shipwreck debris hidden under the water's surface. The park, located at 1440 Wilson Landing Road, Nanjemoy, is open to the public daily, year-round from 5:30 a.m. to dusk.

In order to further preserve this unique site, in October 2015, the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) declared its intent to designate Mallows Bay as a National Marine Sanctuary. The sanctuary was formally designated on September 3, 2019, following 45 days of continuous congressional session after publication in the Federal Register on July 8. NOAA, the State of Maryland, and Charles County will manage the national marine sanctuary jointly.

A National Marine Sanctuary provides a safe habitat for species close to extinction and protects historically significant shipwrecks. Ranging in size, each sanctuary site is a unique place requiring special protections. The Mallows Bay designation is a first for the state of Maryland and Chesapeake watershed; the designation will attract tourists from around the globe and promote county economic development.

You can learn more about the designation process by visiting NOAA's website at <https://sanctuaries.noaa.gov/mallows-potomac/>. For more information about upcoming tourism or park events and attractions in Charles County, visit [www.CharlesCountyParks.com](http://www.CharlesCountyParks.com).

Whether it's historic landmarks or events for the whole family, our Department of Recreation, Parks, and Tourism is bringing discovery and adventure to you

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